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Fdr 455

CLASSIFICATION	<u>SECRET</u>	SECURITY INFORMATION	
COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	

TOPIC Soviet Troops Returning to the Rathenow Post

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____

DATE PREPARED 5 November 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. [redacted] at about 11 p.m. on 17 October 1953 and at 3 a.m.,
 6 a.m., and 11 a.m. on 18 October, trains were unloaded in Rathenow, with
 all vehicles leaving for the Infanterie and the Pionier Kaserne. At about
 5 p.m. on 18 October, 13 to 20 x 160-mm mortars, about 50 trucks, 2 boxcarloads
 of ammunition and about 10 boxcarloads of troops wearing red-bordered black
 epaulets, which had arrived from the direction of Stendal, were unloaded at
 the Rathenow-Nord railroad station. The vehicles [redacted] 25X1
 and others of the [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The detrained unit left for the Infanterie
 Kaserne. [redacted] At about 4:30 p.m. on 19 October, three shipments were unloaded
 at the Rathenow main railroad station at the same time: [redacted] 25X1
 the first shipment involved 8 x 300-mm rocket launchers, [redacted]
 [redacted] 12 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black
 epaulets with artillery insignia and about 30 trucks. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the second shipment involved 8 x 300-mm rocket launchers,
 [redacted] 10 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets
 with artillery insignia and about 20 trucks and jeeps. [redacted] 25X1

and the third shipment involved 8 to 10 x 300-mm rocket launchers. Detail [redacted] 25X1
 this shipment could not be identified because of poor sight. All vehicles involved
 apparently went to the Kraftfahrer Kaserne in columns of 5 to 6 vehicles. At
 about 5:30 p.m., an empty train which source believed, had been unloaded there
 was observed at the Nordbahnhof. [redacted] 25X1

2. Prior to 18 October, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops
 wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and, after 19 October,
 by at least 900 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery
 insignia, including a unit equipped with 20 x 160-mm mortars. At about 6 p.m.
 on 19 October, an undetermined number of troops cleaned 50 to 60 trucks in front
 of the garages in the barracks area. No motor vehicles were seen entering the
 installation after that date. Intensive activity was observed in the barracks
 buildings, almost all windows of which were lighted at dusk. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the new troops had arrived aboard the train which source saw
 empty at the Rathenow railroad station and that elements of the troops had come on
 trains. [redacted] At about 6:30 a.m. on 20 October,

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about 150 troops were seen receiving meals and an undetermined number of troops did maintenance work on about 30 trucks in front of the vehicle sheds. Note r vehicles seen en route to and from the installation included

3. Prior to 17 October, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and, after 18 October, by at least 900 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. At about 5:30 p.m. on 18 October, at least 60 to 70 vehicles, mostly trucks, were seen in front of the gun sheds and in the barracks area.

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[redacted] the new troops had arrived aboard the train during the night of 17 October. Intensive activity was observed in the barracks buildings and the barracks yard. On 20 October, all windows were lighted. Troops seen in the rooms were preparing their bedsteads and about 75 troops were filling straw mattresses in the barracks yard. Truck [redacted] was seen in the barracks area.

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4. Prior to 18 October, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and, after 19 October, by at least 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, including units equipped with 30-mm rocket launchers. On 19 October, the troops detrained at the main railroad station and equipped with a total of at least 24 x 30-mm rocket launchers were seen entering the installation. All quartering buildings were lighted after sunset. Rooms, which could be observed, appeared to be occupied to capacity. Trucks [redacted] in addition to the abovementioned vehicles, were seen entering and leaving the installation.

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5. At about 4:30 p.m. on 20 October, fuel was drained from a tank car, which had a capacity of about 300 hectoliters, and was hauled away by tank truck [redacted]

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Comment. The information tends to indicate that 8 trains were unloaded in Rathenow as against 6 trains [redacted] the trains carried units of the IV Arty Corps returning from the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army. According to weapons observed and installations mentioned, units of all brigades stationed in Rathenow participated in the maneuvers.

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[redacted] According to information in the present report the 6th Arty Div, including the 65th Mort Brig [redacted] and the 18th How Arty Brig [redacted] and the 25th RL Brig can be carried in their quarters after 19 October.

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